

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter within Claims 10, 18 and 19.

Claim 2 was objected to due to informalities, and has been amended accordingly.

Claims 1–8, 11–13, 15–17 and 23–26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Phillips (U.S. 6,396,927), while Claims 9, 14 and 20–22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Phillips. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 1 is directed to a data carrier, Claim 25 is directed to a halftone image and Claim 26 is directed to a linear structural element for producing screened picture motifs. Claims 1, 25 and 26 recite, *inter alia*, that the width of the linear structural element is modulated at each place only on one side of the particular baseline so that the linear structural element is flat on one side and width-modulated on one side. Applicants submit that Phillips fails to teach or suggest these features.

Applicants note that an important aspect of the present invention is the modification of the line rasterization technique for halftone image representation to provide a further authenticity feature for documents of value. *See, e.g.,* Substitute Specification at Page 1 (Paragraph 005). As compared to the prior art, where the rasterized arranged lines in the halftone image are width-modulated symmetrically to both sides of the center line, the present invention only provides width modulation on one side of the center line so that the center line forms a baseline. *See, e.g.,* Page 2 (Paragraph 007). The result thereof is that the width-modulated lines are smooth or flat on one side, the baseline, and are width-modulated on the other side in accordance with the desired grey value. A symmetric width modulation as known from the prior art is not provided in the single-sided width-modulated line according to the present invention. Since it is not easily possible to create a single-sided width modulation with standard software commonly used in graphic image processing, the present invention offers improved protection against forgery. Furthermore, the single-sided width modulated rasterized halftone image permits higher contrast and more detailed rendition than a halftone image with double-sided width modulation.

Applicants also note that the baseline of the linear structural element cannot, however, be an arbitrary line within the linear structural element that does not have the same curve as the width-modulated side of the linear structural element. As noted above, Claims 1, 25 and 26 recite that the width of the linear structural elements is modulated at each place only on one side of the particular baseline. Accordingly, the baseline always forms a side edge of the structural element and does not lie within the structural element. And, because Claims 1, 25 and 26 further recite that the linear structural element is flat on one side and width modulated on one side, it is also clear that the baseline must be flat. Thus, the baseline is not an arbitrary line, but, instead, is a flat line that is not lying within the structural element but one that makes part of an edge at each location of the structural element.

Phillips discloses a counterfeit-resistant document that has a contrasting layer and a dynamic camouflaging layer. *See, e.g., Abstract.* The contrasting layer includes a hidden (text) message and a background pattern, which may each be printed as halftone images. The halftone image is present as an element pattern, the elements preferably being represented by dots. *See, e.g., Col. 4:64 to Col. 5:4.* Thus, the letters of latent message 16, depicted in Figures 3A–E, for example, clearly represent text and do not represent linear structural elements. This is particularly true for the letter "P" which, in addition, comprises a non-printed central area and is not width-modulated on one side according to the present invention. Consequently, Phillips fails to teach or suggest that the width of the linear structural element is modulated at each place only on one side of the particular baseline so that the linear structural element is flat on one side and width-modulated on one side, as recited by Claims 1, 25 and 26. Moreover, Applicants submit that none of the remaining references, taken either singly or in combination, teaches or suggests these features.

Accordingly, Claims 1, 25 and 26 are allowable over the cited art. Additionally, Claims 2–9, 11–17 and 20–24, depending from Claim 1, are also allowable, at least for the reasons discussed above.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks presented herein, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance and should now be passed to issue.

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been requested separately, such extension is hereby requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees and to credit any overpayments that may be required by this paper under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 02-2135.

Respectfully submitted,

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